Congressional Progressive Caucus

The Progressive Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives has between 50 and 60 members, about one-eighth of the 435 House members and is overwhelmingly Democratic in party affiliation. The current Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, has been an active member in the past as have several other important members of the Democratic Party leadership in Congress.

Frame:

GLOBALIZATION WITH A HUMAN FACE (see **Globalization Frames** in **Resource Kit**).

Access Rule

The following team has automatic access: **U.S. State Department**. Other teams require your permission to meet with you.

Success Indicators:

U.S. Equality Index (USE): This begins at 100 and is raised by actions that redistribute wealth from the richest families to the middle and poorer segments of the population and is lowered by actions that increase the relative wealth of the richest families.

Global Equality (GE): This begins at 100 and is raised by actions that increase the wealth of the Global South and lessen the gap with the Global North. It is lowered by actions that widen the gap between North and South.

Electoral Support (ES): This begins at 100 and is raised by actions that increase the visibility of the Progressive Caucus and increase its electoral support. It is lowered by actions that make the Progressive Caucus seem irrelevant and/or ineffective and reduce its electoral support.

Overall Success = (2 x USEI) + GE + (2 x ES) /5

Recommended to read and print out from Resource Kit:

You should make hard copies of the following parts of the Resource Kit to read ahead of time or bring with you to the game sessions:

*** Glossary of Technical Terms
*** GLOBALIZATION WITH A HUMAN FACE frame.

Notes:

The political power of the Caucus fluctuates over time, depending on which political party controls the Congress and which party and faction controls the Presidency. One of its members, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, would be a potential Speaker of the House if the Democratic Party becomes a majority. The model here assumes a relatively unfavorable political environment for the Caucus but can be easily altered to assume a more favorable environment.

Progressive Caucus Action Options

General: The ability of the Progressive Caucus to get legislation passed into law depends on the actions of others. They can pass laws in two ways: first by gaining support for their legislation by the U.S. State Department and/or the A-Team; or, alternatively, by gaining the unanimous support of the social action groups listed below with at least neutrality or non-opposition by the State Department or A-Team.

During periods in which the Democratic Party has a majority in Congress, the Progressive Caucus has an additional action option: To hold televised public hearings to investigate questionable actions by public officials and/or by private companies that operate in the U.S.

Legislative Action:

___ Ia. Appropriate funds to establish standards and a systematic monitoring system to exempt the continued use of traditional herbs and medicines from WTO agreements.

___ Ib Introduce a bill instructing U.S. representatives to the WTO to support the exemption of eco-labeling from the WTO rule that forbids distinguishing among physically similar products on the basis of how they were produced.

___ Ic. Support legislation sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

___ Id. Other legislation (specify)

___ II. Hold public hearings on the following issues or actions by public officials or corporations (specify):

___ III. Other action[1] (specify)

[1] You should check with the game coordinator who will rule whether such an action would be possible in the real world.

Progressive Caucus Press Release

(This should be written on the assumption that the details of the scenario itself are already known and have been reported earlier. You should focus on the actions you have taken during Phase Three that you wish to publicize – and, if relevant, possible action that you might have taken and did not. You should emphasize those actions of your own and of others that you hope will raise your relevant success indicators.)

Progressive Caucus Broadcast Rating Form

The Progressive Caucus monitors WUSA, EuroPress, and Liberation Press but ignores the Voice of Islam (VOI):

WUSA

Notes on coverage:

1. Were the actions of the Progressive Caucus covered fully and fairly from your standpoint?

_____ a. Yes. Coverage was pretty much the way we would have presented it ourselves.

_____ b. Mixed yes and no. Coverage of some of our actions was good but there were significant omissions and/or inclusion of distracting and irrelevant material.

_____ c. No, coverage missed important aspects of our actions and/or distorted other aspects.

2. To what extent did coverage show the Progressive Caucus to be an influential player on global policy versus ineffective or irrelevant?

_____ a. Somewhat or mostly a significant player.

_____ b. Mixed, with some influence although how significant was unclear.

_____ c. Mostly as irrelevant or ineffective.

EuroPress

Notes on coverage:

(Progressive Caucus Broadcast Rating Form continued)

1. Were the actions of the Progressive Caucus covered fully and fairly from your standpoint?

_____ a. Yes. Coverage was pretty much the way we would have presented it ourselves.

_____ b. Mixed yes and no. Coverage of some of our actions was good but there were significant omissions and/or inclusion of distracting and irrelevant material.

_____ c. No, coverage missed important aspects of our actions and/or distorted other aspects.

2. To what extent did coverage show the Progressive Caucus to be an influential player on global policy versus ineffective or irrelevant?

_____ a. Somewhat or mostly a significant player.

_____ b. Mixed, with some influence although how significant was unclear.

_____ c. Mostly as irrelevant or ineffective.

Liberation Press

Notes on coverage:

1. Were the actions of the Progressive Caucus covered fully and fairly from your standpoint?

_____ a. Yes. Coverage was pretty much the way we would have presented it ourselves.

_____ b. Mixed yes and no. Coverage of some of our actions was good but there were significant omissions and/or inclusion of distracting and irrelevant material.

_____ c. No, coverage missed important aspects of our actions and/or distorted other aspects.

2. To what extent did coverage show the Progressive Caucus to be an influential player on global policy versus ineffective or irrelevant?

_____ a. Somewhat or mostly a significant player.

_____ b. Mixed, with some influence although how significant was unclear.

_____ c. Mostly as irrelevant or ineffective.